(c) To optimise the production up to full capacity of urea, the steps taken are, *inter-alia,* retrofitting/revamping of the existing plants and installation of dual fuel/feedstock facilities in the existing plants to overcome to inadequate supply of gas, besides making efforts to increase the gas supply *per se.*

(d) and (e) Imports of urea are being arranged during the current year to bridge the demand supply gap. However, the exact quantity of imports, would depend upon *inter-alia* the trend of indigenous production, sales of urea and demand-supply position in international market.

Smuggling of rare birds

3556. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1200 rare birds were seized recently at Indira Gandhi Airport, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the kinds of the birds so seized;

(c) whether smuggling of such birds has been going on during the last three years; if so, State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to protect birds from smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 13.5.2001, 1200 Red Munia and 33 Alexandrine parakeets were seized by Customs with the help of Officials of Ministry of Environment and Forests at Indira Gandhi Airport, which were being smuggled to Sharjah.

(c) Reports of smuggling of birds have come to the notice of this Ministry from time to time. The details of seizure of birds, during the last three years, as reported by the Regional Dy. Directors, Wildlife Preservation, located at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai is given in the Statement, *{See* below). State-wise details of smuggling of birds are not compiled and collected at the level of the Central Government.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to protect birds from smuggling are as follows:

(1) Steps taken at the State level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination Committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(iii) State Wildlife Authorities carry out regular checking of the stocks of dealers in birds.

(2) Steps taken at National level

(i) Government of India has set up regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti-poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals . Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the., informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

(iv) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

(vi) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create inforcement infrastructure both within and outside protected areas.

(vii) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) Steps taken at International level

(i) Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples' Republic of China and a MoU has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

Statement

SMUGGLING OF RARE BIRDS

Details of seizure of birds during last three years as reported by Wildlife Regional Offices at Delhi, .Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai.

SI. No.	Species	1999	2000	2001
1.	Large Indian parakeet	5	—	—
2.	Rose ringed parakeet	25	73	3
3.	Alexandrine parakeet	—	300	35
4.	Red vented bulbul	—	—	1
5.	Blossom headed parakeet	4	17	—
6.	Red breasted parakeet	—	1	—
7.	Common Myna	—	1	—
8.	Hill Myna	—	300	—
9.	Pheasant	—	—	6
	TOTAL:	34	692	45